

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 FAA-00 CAB-09 COME-00 /109 W

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R 110742Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 506

INFO AMCONSUL SAPPORO

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

COMUSJAPAN FUCHU JAPAN

COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JAPAN

COMFAIRWESTPAC ATSUGI JAPAN

6921 SCTY WING MISAWA JAPAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3185

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJ: P-3 OPERATIONS AT MISAWA

REF: A. TOKYO 010215Z MAR 74

B. COMNAVFORJAPAN 060819Z MAR 74

SUMMARY: EMBASSY GAVE FONOFF FULLER EXPLANATION OF REASONS FOR BEGINNING P-3 OPERATIONS ON LIMITED BUT CONTINUING BASIS AT MISAWA IN APRIL. FONOFF AGAIN SAID MOVE WOULD COMPLICATE GOJ NEGOTIATIONS WITH MISAWA MAYOR WHO HAS NOT BEEN WON OVER TO P-3 RELOCATION, AND INFORMALLY SUGGESTED THAT LE GIVE THOUGHT TO SOFTENING LOCAL RESISTANCE BY GOING ALONG WITH IDEA OF PERMITTING LIMITED COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS INTO MISAWA. EMBASSY THINKS WE SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH P-3 MOVE, BUT GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO COMMERCIAL FLIGHT PROPOSAL ONLY ON ITS OWN MERITS. END SUMMARY

1. BASED ON REF B AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH CMFJ, EMBOFF MARCH 8

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GAVE FONOFF (TERADA) FULLER EXPLANATION OF P-3 PLANS AT MISAWA

THAN CONTAINED REF A.

2. EMBOFF SAID THAT P-3 DETACHMENTS HAVE BEEN ROTATED FROM IWAKUNI TO MISAWA IN PAST (E.G. SIX P-3'S FOR SIX WEEKS LAST FALL). HOWEVER, IN TEAD OF RETURNING SUCH UNITS TO IWAKUNI AT END OF TDY, BEGINNING IN APRIL WE PLAN TO STATION ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF SQUADRON AT MISAWA ON CONTINUING BASIS. THERE WERE THREE REASONS FOR THIS:

A) TO PROMOTE EFFICIENCY. CERTAIN P-3 MISSIONS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT IN NORTHERN JAPAN. BY STAGING THESE OUT OF MISAWA INSTEAD OF IWAKUNI, WE ELIMINATE 1,500 MILE ROUND TRIP ALONG LENGTH OF HONSHU, THEREBY MAKING CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS IN FUEL AND OTHER COSTS AS WELL AS EASING AIR CONGESTION. ALSO, NAVY IS ABLE MAKE BETTER USE OF ITS BASE DETACHMENT AT MISAWA (COMFAIRWESPAC DETACHMENT MISAWA) WHICH WAS SENT THERE SOME TIME AGO PREPARATORY TO P-3 CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS.

B) TO PROVIDE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY TO THE BASE DETACHMENT IN P-3 SUPPORT OPERATIONS. BY THE TIME JFAP CONSTRUCTION IS COMPLETED AND FULL SQUADRON IS BASED AT MISAWA, THE DETACHMENT WILL HAVE HAD HEADSTART IN WORKING OUT PROBLEMS PECULIAR TO SMISAWA.

C) TO HELP RELIEVE OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS AT IWAKUNI.

3. EMBOFF EMPHASIZED THAT THIS P-3 MOVE WAS INTERIM MEASURE WHICH IN NO WAY LESSENED NEED FOR JFAP PROGRAM VIII PROJECTS. WE WERE STARTING NOW ON VERY LIMITED BASIS INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR COMPLETION OF JFAP CONSTRUCTION, BECAUSE OF REASONS CITED AND FACT THAT WE PRESENTLY DO NOT KNOW WHEN JFAP WILL BE COMPLETED.

4. TERADA AGAIN SAID THE MOVE WOULD COMPLICATE GOJ NEGOTIATIONS WITH MAYOR OF MISAWA. IDEALLY, P-3 OPERATIONS AS WELL AS P-3 RELATED CONSTRUCTION SHOULD NOT BEGIN UNTIL MAYOR AND LOCAL COMMUNITY HAVE ACCEPTED P-3 PROGRAM. MAYOR HAS PRESENTED GOJ WITH 70 BILLION YEN LIST OF PORK BARREL ITEMS AS BASIS FOR ACCEPTING P-3 PROGRAM. WHILE GOJ THINKS LIST IS COMPLETELY UNREALISTIC, GOJ IS FAIRLY CONFIDENT THAT MISAWA CITY CAN BE WON OVER ON BASIS OF PENDING LEGISLATION WHICH WILL LIBERALIZE SUBSIDIES TO BASE COMMUNITIES. TERADA  
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SAID THAT IF US ACCELERATES TIMETABLE FOR P-3 OPERATIONS AT MISAWA, EVEN ON LIMITED BASIS, BASE ADMINISTRATORS MAY NEED TO THINK OF MEASURES TO AMELIORATE LOCAL RESISTANCE. HE EXPRESSED AS HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT ONE SUCH MEASURE WAS US WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT COMMERCIAL PASSENGER FLIGHTS INTO MISAWA. TERADA ACK-

NOWLEDGED THAT US HAD LEGAL RIGHT TO GO AHEAD WITH P-3 PROGRAM, BUT HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WE WOULD NOT DO SO UNTIL HE HAS HAD

CHANCE TO COME BACK TO US AFTER CONSULTING WITH HIS FELLOW

SUPERIORS AND WITH DFAA.

5. EMBOFF SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT TERADA'S TENTATIVE VIEWS TO ALL CONCERNED ON US SIDE, BUT THAT NAVY WAS IN THE MEANTIME GOING AHEAD WITH ITS PLANS. PROPOSAL TO PERMIT JET FLIGHTS INTO MISAWA WAS UNRELATED TO P-3 RELOCATION AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ON ITS OWN MERITS.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES WE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT NOW REVERSE PLANS FOR P-3 MOVE, SINCE ADVANTAGES ACCRUING TO US SEEM TO OUTWEIGH PROBLEMS PREDICTED BY TERADA. AT SAME TIME, WE SHOULD EXAMINE WAYS IN WHICH WE MAY BE OF ASSISTANCE TO GOJ IN PLACATING LOCAL OPPOSITION. WHILE P-3 MOVE IS UNRELATED TO PROPOSAL TO PERMIT JET FLIGHTS INTO MISAWA, WE RECOMMEND HARD LOOK TO SEE WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE ALSO, FROM STANDPOINT OF US MORALE, CONVENIENCE, AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS, TO HAVE SUCH SERVICE UNDER CERTAIN WELL-DEFINED CONDITIONS, AS NOW EXIST FOR TDA FLIGHTS INTO MSDF BASE AT HACHINOHE. WE RECALL THAT WHEN RUNWAYS AT HACHINOHE WERE UNDER REPAIR 1968-70, WE WERE ABLE ACCOMMODATE COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS INTO MISAWA TEMPORARILY, EVEN THOUGH USAF AIR WING WAS STATIONED THERE. SHOESMITH

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